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BT
UNCLAS LA PAZ 991

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: ALTMANN CASE

REF: LA PAZ 956

1. ON PRESENCIA OF FEBRUARY 22 CARRIED AFP ARTICLE IN WHICH MINISTER-SECRETARY ARCE REPORTEDLY INFORMED AFP CORRESPONDENT WITH PRESIDENT BANZER HAD FORMALLY DENIED FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF ALTMANN. ARCE ALLEGEDLY STATED, QUOTE, IN HIS NOTE OF REPLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC CONSIDERS THAT SUFFICIENT ELEMENTS OF JUDGMENT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM AS SOLVED, END QUOTE. THE AFP ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT HIS CONSTITUTED A DECISION THAT EXTRADITION WOULD NOT BE GRANTED. THE OFFICIAL NOTE TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WAS REPORTEDLY TO BE SENT TO FRANCE ON FEBRUARY 22 BY DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

2. COMMENT: NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY AND DECISION; THUS IT IS PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT HE HAS FORMALLY DENIED THE EXTRADITION REQUEST. SIRACUSA

BT
#0991

SECRET

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

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